

DAILY REPORT

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LATIN AMERICA PREPARES FOR UNCTAD MEETING

PA211850 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The Latin American and Caribbean cabinet ministers and chiefs of delegations who are attending the preparatory meeting in San Jose of the seventh UNCTAD conference, which is slated to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in July, have demanded that an urgent political dialogue be held between creditors and debtors, based on the right to development as a means to solve the foreign debt problem. They reasserted that the foreign debt cannot be repaid under the current conditions and without sustained economic development.

The foreign debt has become the greatest obstacle to the economic recovery of our countries, the area ministers and chiefs of delegations meeting in our capital said. They claim that the high cost of servicing the debt coupled with the sharp decrease in the flow of financing, especially from the private commercial banks, has turned the region into a net exporter of capital.

They stated that they will increase efforts to continue the advance toward economic integration and cooperation among their countries. They also said that they will try to increase economic cooperation among developing nations to the maximum possible.

The Latin American and Caribbean cabinet ministers and chiefs of delegations said that it is necessary to reverse the trend toward a deterioration of international cooperation and multilateral efforts. They noted that the problems faced by our countries demand coherent and coordinated solutions, reiterating their support for UNCTAD as a universal framework geared toward development and the solution of their problems.

They reasserted their readiness to foster joint actions and mutual support among the developing countries to promote a satisfactory solution to these obstacles as well as economic growth.

PRC To Receive Invitation

PA230424 Paris AFP in Spanish 0050 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Excerpt] San Jose, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The Latin American nations decided today to invite the PRC to the meeting that the Group of 77 will hold in Havana in April to establish the position that the Third World will take at the forthcoming UNCTAD meeting.

The decision to invite the PRC was unanimously adopted by the delegates who are participating in this capital in the Latin American coordination meeting prior to the seventh UNCTAD meeting to take place in July in Geneva. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

BISHOPS ELECT OFFICERS -- Yesterday Msgr Dario Castrillon Hoyos, bishop of Pereira, Colombia, was elected president of the Latin American Bishops Conference council to replace Antonio Quarracino. Santo Domingo Archbishop Jose Nicolas Lopez Rodriguez was elected first vice president and Brazilian Archbishop Msgr Freire Falcao second vice president. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p 6 PY]

CAPUTO DISCUSSES RATIONALE OF UN CUBA VOTE

PY251806 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1120 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has stated that the United States has been unable to resolve their problems with Cuba and this is why, during the last plenary meeting of a special UN commission, the United States sought to have the Latin American nations condemn, "without evidence," human rights violations in Cuba.

Caputo pointed out that the United States sought -- as when Cuba was expelled from the OAS -- a favorable vote to condemn human rights violations. He also said that "all of us condemn violations, but later Latin Americans have to bear it."

"I will not condemn without evidence. I do not see why I should pay the cost of political manipulation," Caputo noted. Caputo reiterated his willingness to conduct investigations into the Cuban situation, based on the fact that in any country without a pluralist democracy there are human rights violations.

In comments made during the program "New Times," Caputo compared the situation claimed by the United States with the forced severance of relations with South Africa. He warned that "it is not the same in a country where the constitution is based on a single party" than in the other country "where a person is segregated by the simple fact of being black."

ARMY HIGH COMMAND MEETS ON MILITARY TRIALS

PY252058 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2110 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (NA) -- At a meeting today, Army generals discussed, among other issues, the "work document" in which the Army maintains that "it is experiencing the most critical period this century" as a consequence of the trials of officers charged with violating human rights. The Army asserts that "it will never relinquish" the objectives of the struggle against subversion "despite society's lack of understanding regarding the techniques and procedures characteristic of a revolutionary war."

The document is one of the many drawn up by various agencies of the Army General Staff, and it was submitted for consideration today to the Army High Command, which yesterday began a 3-day meeting to discuss, mainly, the situation of Army personnel as a consequence of the law establishing the statute of limitations, known as the "Full Stop" Law.

One of the paragraphs of the lengthy report adds that the "comrades-in-arms summoned by the courts have our constant support and recognition," and the current state of law is the result of "the blood shed and sacrifice of its men."

Part of the text of the document was published today by CRONICA newspaper and its content as well as discussion during the meeting of generals was officially ratified this afternoon by a high-level military source.

Regarding the meeting, the Army Press Office issued a communique stating that the meeting was scheduled on the Army's 1987 agenda "with the participation of all active-duty generals in the country and colonels awaiting promotion."

The communique states that "General Elbio Santa Rosa, director for institutional affairs, and Army Judicial Adviser General Ramallo addressed the meeting in the morning." The communique goes on to report that "later, the High Command was addressed by General Naldo Dasso, director of Military Institutes, and by the commanders of the different Army corps who referred to the situation of their respective areas and especially to issues involving the personnel under their command."

The communique adds that "in the afternoon a debate on subjects of general interest to the force was held. It ended with an address by Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu. The meeting will continue tomorrow."

Moreover, it was unofficially disclosed that Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena tomorrow will ratify, before the Military High Command, the government's policy regarding the trials against members of the Armed Forces. This will occur at a luncheon he will attend with all the generals and colonels attending the meeting.

It has been denied that Jaunarena will say that the executive branch has decided "not to allow acts of disobedience," that is, acts of rebellion, and that if this should happen those officers guilty will be dismissed and lose all legal protection from the Army. Jaunarena will probably refer to some cases in which the court acquitted military officers charged with human rights violations, which proved -- according to the government -- that the federal courts are "impartial."

It was learned through other channels that the government is somewhat disgusted with what it considers an "inconsistency" of certain courts that have ordered strict preventive imprisonment orders which had to be reversed later.

Referring to the court summons, the document made public today states that "if cases stemming from the war on terrorism are brought to trial, one must believe that the truth will emerge in court. The Army never eluded its (presumed) responsibilities. However, it is not convinced that lies, fallacy, and slander can be eliminated."

"The Army not only seeks court investigations but also a full vindication of the war and of the comrades-in-arms who fought it."

The document adds that the Army "will never relinquish the objectives it had during the war, it will support the comrades-in-arms who are summoned by the courts, and it will permanently recognize these comrades and their heroic actions."

Referring to previous statements by Rios Erenu, the report states: "Within the legal framework, the Army will give assistance to its men to obtain the best defense of their rights, and will provide spiritual and material support to their relatives." It then states that "the institution makes no difference between its active-duty and retired members, between superiors, subordinates, or civilians, they are all equally important to the force." Later, the text of the document refers to the antisubversive struggle, noting that "only the preservation of the Republic and its basic institutions encouraged the Argentine Army when it was engaged in the war against subversion by the constitutional authorities."

"The mistakes that were detected were judged at the time; others are being raised today and people forget the sacrifices that were made, questioning those who went into this war wholeheartedly. We are thus once again faced with the story that men worship God and the soldier in times of danger, but they forget God and despise the soldier when the danger is over and everything is calm."

The document also warned of "the attempt to destroy the force by some disintegrating and anarchic currents." The reports ends by quoting a number of public statements by Rios Erenu, among them one made on Army Day last year, when he asserted that "we will respond to the attempts to confuse and divide the members of this force with a firm determination to assume the responsibility we have in the political history of our country."

10,000 DEMONSTRATE AGAINST FULL STOP LAW

PY251956 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Some 10 thousand people yesterday demonstrated against the "full stop" law on the 11th anniversary of the coup d'etat by marching to Congress, where they read a statement saying that "the law is unconstitutional and puts our people under the permanent threat of a coup."

The march was called by the Committee Against the Full Stop Law, made up of human rights activists, political, labour and student groups. Demonstrations marched under the motto: "The crimes of yesterday are still present in today's impunity."

"We will never accept that only a tiny proportion of those responsible for state terrorism be tried and possibly convicted," read the statement.

The demonstrators, who left from the corner of 9 de Julio and Avenida de Mayo, chanted slogans such as "Freedom to the prisoners," the "Proceso to devoto (jail)," "Murderers to jail and our comrades freed," plus some allusive to Pope John Paul II's upcoming visit like "The military and the Radical government want to be saved by the pope."

TREASURY SECRETARY ON DEBT NEGOTIATION PROGRESS

PY242153 Buenos Aires BURENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] (NA) -- Treasury Secretary Mario Brodersohn yesterday expressed optimism over the possibility of reaching an agreement with creditor banks soon, while stressing that Argentina has made "substantial progress" in the negotiations of its foreign debt. Brodersohn, who is currently in Miami participating in the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) meeting, also said that Argentina's proposal to issue an "exit bond" in order to reduce the number of creditors "was well received by banks." He explained that Argentina has to negotiate with approximately 360 banks, while only 160 of them hold 90 percent of the country's debt.

SMATA LEADER 'SOUNDED OUT' FOR LABOR MINISTER POST

PY251423 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1311 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (TELAM) -- Jose Rodriguez, secretary general of the Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers (SMATA), this morning said that yesterday he was approached by government officials who asked him if he would like to become the new labor minister. Rodriguez said he told them that he could not accept the job and that he will stay in his post as SMATA secretary general.

In remarks to newsmen, Rodriguez said: I want to make it clear that President Alfonsin did not offer me the job; I was just sounded out by some government officials. Therefore, I have not rejected any offer.

THREE MINISTERS REPORTEDLY OFFER TO RESIGN

PY252031 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1626 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Rumors of the mass resignation of President Jose Sarney's Cabinet increased today among Brazilian journalistic and political circles only a day after President Sarney managed to overcome the crisis caused by Planning Minister Joao Sayad's resignation.

The daily CORREIO BRASILIANZE reported today that Minister of Industry and Commerce Jose Hugo Castello Branco, Minister of Foreign Affairs Roberto de Abreu Sodre, and Civil Household Chief Marco Maciel had offered to tender their resignations to President Sarney.

There is absolute silence in this regard at the presidential Planalto Palace, and the Foreign Ministry made no comment.

The rumors of crisis within President Sarney's government surfaced early this year, and a confrontation among several ministers over the handling of the economic policy intensified. This confrontation ended with the resignation of Planning Minister Joao Sayad. This was interpreted as a victory for Finance Minister Dilson Funary, who has gained absolute control of the economic policy.

Now, the politicians, and the news media consider "a ministerial crisis imminent," and include Finance Minister Funaro among the ministers who will step down from their posts.

After a meeting with the 20 most important Brazilian businessmen, President Jose Sarney stated last Sunday in Sao Paulo that the changes to his Cabinet will be made in accordance with the political needs but never in the middle of an overall Cabinet crisis.

Today the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB) also gave assurances that current Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves will be replaced. In the last few weeks, Chaves has harshly criticized the handling of the current economic crisis. Chaves was the first to publicly support a proposal submitted by his colleague Civil Household Chief Maciel calling for the mass resignation of the ministers in order to free President Sarney "to reorganize a government of national unity."

Both Chaves and Maciel are members of the Liberal Front Party (PFL), part of the PMDB-PFL government coalition. Following the defeat in the November 1986 elections, the PFL has been debating withdrawal from the coalition.

NATIONAL BANK WORKERS STRIKE CONTINUES 25 MARCH

PY260239 Brasilia Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Ninety percent of private bank workers joined the strike in Rio de Janeiro during its second day. All public banks were closed. Late this afternoon the bank workers concentrated at Candelaria to march through Rio Branco Avenue until they reached Cinelandia, where they held an assembly.

According to labor leaders the strike will continue until the banks agree to a 100-percent salary increase, a minimum wage of 5,563 cruzados, and job stability. The acting president of Rio de Janeiro banks syndicate Nelson (Mufaregi) said that the movement is very strong.

He added that with the Labor Ministry recognizing the strike, the matter will now be heard by the Superior Labor Court. This means that negotiations will now continue in the court. According to (Mufaregi) the banks fulfilled the agreements they made in September of last year covering the period through August of 1987. They have also granted the raises determined by the salary escalators included in the labor legislation.

As a consequence of the strike, the stock market in Rio de Janeiro today decided to suspend business in the shares market. It is impossible for the stock market to carry out the financial aspects of its operations. It will keep in touch with the Central Bank and the stock market in Sao Paulo to evaluate the situation.

CUBAN TRANSPORT MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY251118 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Cuban Transport Minister Diocles Torralba Gonzalez today began a 9-day visit to Brazil. The minister will meet with government authorities today and tomorrow. In Sao Paulo he will visit the Mafersa company which manufactures electric "trolleybuses" and railroad cars. He will also visit CooperSucar, the sugarcane cultivation technology center. Still in Sao Paulo he will visit the Dedini alcohol and sugar mill and the equipment manufacturing company, Zanini. In Rio de Janeiro he will visit the Verolme shipyards and the Volvo truck factory. The Cuban minister said his visit to Brazil is not to buy or sell, but it may pave the way for an agreement between Brazilian businessmen and the Cuban Government through which Cuba may purchase \$15 million of equipment.

Today Minister Diocles Torralba Gonzalez met Brazilian Transport Minister Jose Reinaldo Tavares and Aeronautic Minister General Octavio Moreira Lima.

JUSTICE MINISTER ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT CUBA

PY231454 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Justice Minister Paulo Brossard has confirmed his trip to Cuba from 7 to 12 April at the invitation of Fidel Castro. The councillor of the Cuban Embassy in Brazil, Francisco Carbonel, said that the trip of Justice Minister Brossard represents the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

EBN NEWS AGENCY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH TASS

PY251821 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Today the Brazilian News Agency [EBN] and TASS signed an agreement to exchange press reports. The ceremony was held at the office of Justice Minister Paulo Brossard and was attended by Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Viktor Isakov. Minister Paulo Brossard explained that through this agreement, EBN will be able to expand its services. Once it receives the press reports from TASS, EBN will select and distribute them through its network. At the same time EBN will supply news reports on Brazil to the TASS agency in Rio de Janeiro which will transmit them to Moscow. Currently, EBN maintains agreements with ANGOLP [Angola Press], LUSA from Portugal, and is about to sign agreements with a PRC agency, with the FRG's DPA and IPS headquartered in Rome.

SANTIAGO DEMONSTRATIONS SQUELCHED BY CARABINEROS

Union Leaders, Others Arrested

PY251733 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 87

[By Angel Busan Ramos]

[Excerpt] Various demonstrations have been staged in downtown Santiago beginning at noon today. The demonstrations, however, have been dispersed by special Carabinero forces.

During the demonstrations Rodolfo Seguel, president of the National Workers Command [CNT], was arrested. The leader was complaining to an officer that a Carabinero had sprayed him with tear gas on the corner of Estado Street and O'Higgins Promenade when he was arrested and almost dragged to (New York) Street where was put into a police van.

Manuel Rodriguez, leader of the CNT was also arrested on the Ahumada Boulevard.

We have also seen 10 more youths arrested. Journalists have reported that more people were arrested in other parts of the city, and that an ambulance had to aid someone inside a store here on the corner of Huerfanos and Ahumada Boulevard.

Two people have been wounded and were taken to the Vicariate of Solidarity. One of them was knocked out by a water cannon. [passage omitted]

Leaders Released, To Sue Police

PY260121 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Through its vice president, Manuel Bustos -- who reported that he was beaten by a Carabinero lieutenant and had to be treated at a local hospital -- the CNT has announced that it will sue the Carabinero Corps. [passage omitted]

CNT President Rodolfo Seguel has said that he was arrested when he complained to a Carabinero officer that he had been teargassed by a Carabinero agent.

CNT leaders were arrested when they were distributing a memorandum requesting a salary readjustment, and a minimum salary of 20,000 Chilean pesos. This memorandum has not been answered by the government.

All union leaders were later released. However, CNT leaders have announced that they will continue to press their demands before the government because the great majority of Chileans cannot continue to receive a minimum salary of 10,000 pesos.

The union leaders said that during the demonstrations held in downtown Santiago, the police expressly avoided using tear gas and making mass arrests because of the important personalities now visiting Chile such as UN Human Rights Adviser Fernando Volio. But they added that they fear reprisals will be taken against them once these personalities leave Chile.

47 Arrested in Incident

PY252346 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Two Carabineros were injured and 47 people have been arrested in incidents in downtown Santiago promoted by the opposition.

Carabinero police have reported that Carabinero Agent Patricio Garrido was attacked with a bottle by a criminal at the Plaza de Armas. It added that the assailant has been arrested and placed at the disposal of the military courts on charges of ill-treatment of a Carabinero on duty.

Another Carabinero who was patrolling the area was attacked at the corner of Estado Street and Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue. The identity of the Carabinero, who sustained minor injuries, has not been disclosed.

Both Carabineros have been hospitalized at the Carabineros hospital.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON UN ADVISER VILIO'S ACTIVITIES

PY251633 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Commenting on UN adviser Fernando Volio's statement that Chilean courts are not independent of the executive branch, Justice Minister Hugo Rosende has said that the Chilean judicial branch should set an example for all American countries:

[Begin recording] I was very surprised at this remark because it implies bringing our legislation into question. We cannot say that the courts are not independent because we would be questioning a constitutional or legal norm, which would take things too far. However, if Volio's remark means that the judicial branch is not independent, I would respectfully say that a person who makes such a remark totally ignores the essence of the Chilean judicial system, which is an example for America, for all American countries. [end recording]

The justice minister concluded by saying that Fernando Volio's remark about the Chilean judicial system was subjective and added that he, personally, had full respect for the Chilean judicial system.

Meanwhile, UN adviser Fernando Volio continued to conduct activities in Chile, which have been fully facilitated by Chilean authorities. He met with opposition political leaders Gabriel Valdes and Sergio Molina. He also met Juan de Dios Rial, rector of Catholic University. [passage omitted]

In the morning, Fernando Volio also met Ambassador Mario Calderon, Foreign Ministry adviser for special affairs. During the meeting, Volio received all the information he requested on matters of interest to him.

In the afternoon, Volio met representatives of CORPAS (Corporation for the Defense of Peace), an organization dedicated to listening to the problems of terrorism victims. Volio then went to the Human Rights Commission Offices, where he held a long meeting. Later he reported on the meeting to the press. He said he had listened to many testimonies, which he will carefully analyze, as the UN Human Rights Commission asked him to do.

Volio said that today, his third day in Chile, he met with Supreme Court of Justice President Rafael Retamel, whom he highly praised. Volio said that tomorrow he will meet the Supreme Court Justices Plenum. Terrorism is the worst obstacle in the struggle to obtain a free and democratic peace in Chile. Terrorism must, therefore, be unyieldingly, laboriously, and heartily fought, UN adviser Fernando Volio said.

On his third day in Chile, Volio was very impressed by the testimony of survivors of terrorist attacks. Volio listened to their testimony during his visit to the CORPAS offices. He said that their testimony shows the damage terrorists can inflict on innocent people. [passage omitted] Volio concluded by saying that, as during his previous visit to the country, Chilean officials have given him full cooperation.

FPMR SAYS NEW ARSENALS GOVERNMENT INVENTION

PY242154 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0310 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Santiago, 20 Mar (EFE) — Five members of the Armed, Marxist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) currently in jail, today said that the discovery of a new clandestine arms cache, in the north of the country, announced by the security policy is false.

This is stated in a declaration delivered today to some news media by attorney Hugo Pavez, who is in charge of the defense of Claudio Molina, Sergio Bushmann, Victor Molina, Alfredo Malbrich and Jose Moya, who are in jail, charged with clandestinely bringing 55 tons of arms and explosives into the country. These arms were discovered last August.

On 18 March, DINACOS [Government Social Communications Agency] confirmed the news was released the day before by President Pinochet himself, saying that the police had uncovered a large arsenal hidden inside an abandoned mine in the third region.

According to DINACOS, the security service discovered this new clandestine arsenal while investigating the arms traffic attributed to the FPMR, which is considered the arms branch of the Chilean Communist Party.

The arsenal included 321,120 rounds of ammunition for M-16's, 2,900 rounds of ammunition for M-60's, 85 rockets for RPG-7's, and 48 grenades, as well as other kinds of ammunition and war materiel.

The five FPMR members who claim that the discovery of arms announced by the government is false, have been on a hunger strike in a Santiago prison since 3 March. Their strike is in support of a group of 15 political prisoners who themselves began a hunger strike 1 week before.

BRIEFS

1986 ECONOMIC GROWTH — Santiago, 7 Mar (EFE) — The Central Bank National Accounts Department reported today that the Chilean economy grew by 5.7 percent in 1986. The Central Bank projects an economy growth of 4.6 percent for 1987. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT 7 Mar 87 PY]

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES — The Chilean Statistics Institute has reported that the unemployment rate was 8.4 percent during November, December 1986 and January 1987, a 0.4 percent drop in comparison to the 3 months prior to November. This represents the lowest percentage in the last 12 years. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Mar 87 pp A1, 10 PY]

STRIKE TO PROTEST ECONOMIC MEASURES PLANNED

Ministry Suspends Classes

PA241250 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The Education Ministry has reported that classes will be suspended in private [word indistinct] and municipal schools beginning tomorrow, Tuesday [24 March].

Education Minister Ivan Gallegos Dominguez explained that the suspension of classes from 24-26 March is for the students to prepare for second quarter tests. Gallegos also [word indistinct] the need to protect the personal safety of the students.

It was reported that cumulative second quarter tests will begin Friday [words indistinct] April in accordance with the general regulations of the law on education.

Marco Lara Guzman, national public information secretary, rebuked several comments to the effect that the suspension of educational activities is connected with the announcement of the general strike decreed by the country's labor federations. Lara said that the measure falls within the purview of the ministry because precautions are being taken regarding the students activity, which is to study.

Lara declined comment on a possible strike by drivers [not further identified]. He said he will give his opinion on actual facts.

[Begin recording] [Lara] This is not an obligatory vacation. It is an order from the Education Ministry that the students devote themselves on Tuesday and Wednesday to something that apparently necessitates an explanation, for the students to devote themselves to studying. Moreover, we know -- and we must not delude ourselves on this -- that many times agitators use the students as spearheads of a number of activities other than studying.

Therefore, if anyone wishes to read into the ministerial order a directive aimed at preserving the peace yes, there is also this purpose. The parents are grateful for it; the citizens are grateful for it; and, in the last analysis, the students [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Lara] The citizens' tranquillity does not have to be directed by the government. It has to be guaranteed by the government. [Words indistinct] anyone who commits outrages is not directing the citizens' tranquillity. [end recording]

Bus Service Guaranteed

PA251450 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Deputy Interior Minister Enrique Noboa Arizaga, who also heads the National Traffic Council, has reiterated that the urban, rural, and interprovincial transportation fares will not be increased. He also said that the urban transportation service will be guaranteed today as the FUT [United Workers Front] strike is being held.

[Begin recording] [Noboa] [Words Indistinct] as soon as I observe that there is some announcement, I will not only act against the drivers, but I will also act directly against the cooperative to which the bus belongs, withdrawing its operating license. [Words indistinct] I will be absolutely drastic.

[Reporter] Any more increases [words indistinct]?

[Noboa] No. We do not want to cause people more economic harm. I have always said that we have to look at both sides. On one hand there are the needs of the transporters because the costs of spare parts, gasoline [words indistinct]. On the other hand we also have the situation of [words indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Noboa] [Words indistinct] will be guaranteed [words indistinct] the youths will stone the buses [words indistinct] but the transporters are ready to face this.

[Reporter] It has been rumored in recent days that you will authorize a new fare increase if the transporters do not join the strike.

[Noboa] That would be an action by a government that is not serious as this one. We cannot play with the people's good faith, and we cannot promise any political action in circumstances such as this one. That would be ignoble. How could you think that a serious, responsible, democratic, and popular government could do such things behind the people's back? No, that is absurd. I emphatically and totally deny it. [end recording]

Noboa Arizaga said that the transportation service in the country will be guaranteed by the police force today so as to prevent any disorders that might occur during the FUT strike.

Interior Minister Comments

PA251532 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The Social Christian government, through Interior Minister Luis Robles Plaza, has urged the country's citizens not to participate in the strike called by FUT today. It also said that any attempt from any sector to carry out violent actions will be put down.

[Begin Robles recording] The national government is perfectly aware that the planned national strike called by FUT will be utilized by well-known agitators to unleash violence and force the police into confrontations with unforeseeable consequences when they carry out their duty to maintain peace and order in the Republic.

Disregarding the social interest and the noble sacrifices of the Ecuadoran community to help the country overcome its grave situation, some political sectors are trying to worsen the crisis and hinder the creative action of the government in defense of the people's interests. These negative activities cannot be tolerated by the authorities, who, empowered by the Constitution and the laws, can take action against them to safeguard the lives and peace of the citizens. The maintenance of social peace demands the cooperation of the government and the governed. Because of this, as interior minister, I call on all Ecuadoreans to remain outside the dissociating, demagogic, and sectarian movements; and to reject the provocateurs of violence. I especially call on parents to prevent their children, through their inexperience, to be incited by such provocateurs.

The police, doing their duty and acting with the suitable restraint that circumstances demand, will protect individual and collective rights, especially life and property; and will guarantee full freedom of movement and work throughout the national territory. [end recording]

Strike Begins 25 March

PA251538 Paris AFP in Spanish 1501 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Quito, 25 Mar (AFP) — A 24-hour strike began in Ecuador today in an atmosphere of tense calm. The strikers are protesting the economic measures decreed by President Leon Febres Cordero 12 days ago, which include an 80-percent increase in the price of gas. This is the fifth strike that President Febres has faced in 32 months of government and the third one jointly organized by center and leftist labor unions. The labor leaders said that the strike could be extended.

The first incidents between workers and policemen took place a few minutes after the strike began, when bonfires and barricades were erected in the Quito industrial area, where the Pan American Highway begins. In Guayaquil, the strike has less support from workers, primarily because the main labor leaders have been under arrest since Monday night. The Army is guarding the basic installations and services throughout Ecuador and is also patrolling certain zones, Interior Minister Luis Robles Plaza said today while his colleague, Labor Minister Jorge Egas, said that the right to transportation is guaranteed.

Strike May Be Extended

PA251822 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1732 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The strike is successful, and it is possible that it might be extended to 48 hours, said FUT leader Edgar Ponce.

[Begin recording] [Ponce] The response of Ecuadoreans today has really been surprising. At the national level, we have reports of complete participation. We must stress the position and attitude of struggle of Guayas Province where despite the violent repression by the Guayas governor, the workers and people of Guayaquil are participating. From the reports we see that the entire country is paralyzed at this time. The entire country has turned 25 March into a new 1 June [date of national plebiscite]. I say 1 June because today has become a real plebiscite. The people in the streets, the workers in their factories, the peasants on the roads, all the people are protesting against this government, asking for its removal, asking for the repeal of the economic measures, asking for the removal of the ministers. The people, tired of so many economic, social, and political aggressions from the government, reaffirmed their firm position of defending democracy and especially the rights of the people and workers.

[Reporters] What about problems with the workers as a result of the repression? Have there been any arrests or injuries?

[Ponce] So far we can report on our visit to the southern and central part of the city where we observed a firm and combative position. Regarding the north, we have learned that there might be approximately three wounded. However, this has not been confirmed.

The FUT leadership will be holding a news conference at 1500 to report all the events in the country and to announce if the strike will continue or if it will just be held as scheduled for 24 hours. If the necessary conditions exist -- it seems that they might exist -- the strike might be extended. [end recording]

Strike To End 26 March

PA260053 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2307 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The FUT and the other organizations that promoted today's national strike have resolved not to extend it for 48 hours; it will end at 0600 tomorrow, Thursday [26 March], midnight tonight. They also convoked the workers to a march to take place tomorrow, and decided to hold a national convention on 4 April to approve the day and time when the national strike will be renewed. A labor leader said that the strike represents a new plebiscite for the government, which has again been defeated because the people have said no: no to the economic measures, no to violence, no to repressive policies, and no to authoritarianism. Jose Chavez [subsequently identified as "acting president of the Bank Workers Front"] said:

[Begin recording] [Chavez] First of all, I want to say that the strike has been a great victory for the Ecuadorean people because they have protested against the government's economic policies, against the economic measures adopted on 11 August 1986 and those adopted 13 March. These measures make more acute the misery and hunger of our people. We think this has been a victory not only for the FUT, but for all Ecuadoreans. Reason and justice have won over the repression, abuse, and trampling of this government. We want to say that as a result of an evaluation made by us, the People's Front [Frente Popular], and the [PT] [not further identified], we have concluded that one result of this victorious effort has been the promotion of unity among the various popular sectors, and that therefore, it is necessary to use this strength on a new and much broader and significant struggle. We trust that on that occasion we will again have the support and solidarity we had today and that we are having right now. These popular organizations have decided that it is necessary, indispensable, to hold a march tomorrow. They have also convoked a national convention on 4 April. At that convention the organizations will decide when this strike will be renewed.

[Question indistinct]

[Chavez] We have proposed that Leon Febres Cordero be put on political trial. We believe that if Congress implements its constitutional mechanisms, it will have to put him on trial and, if there are grounds for removing him from office, it will have to do so. We have said that we have been changes in the country, in the places we have visited. Today we consulted people and we asked them what they think about the proposal of a political trial for Leon Febres Cordero. We also asked them: Are you prepared to continue supporting this government for another 17 months, as the term in office is established? The people have answered: Not even 1 minute more, companero, Leon Febres Cordero must leave immediately. What we have done is interpreted the people's feelings and channelled their position in a constitutional and legal fashion. The government has committed an action that could perfectly be [words indistinct] of the Constitution, but it is Congress that must remove him from office. However, if the government heeds the people's clamor, if it has national sensibility, the logical thing to do would be for it to resign, to go home, and to let the Ecuadorean people face the problems we are facing in a different situation, not in a situation of repression, abuse, and violence such as the one created by the government. [end recording]
[passage omitted]

SANGUINETTI INTERVIEWED, DEFENDS MILITARY

PY210135 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p 6

[Text] In a televised interview conducted by Argentine journalist Bernardo Neustadt, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti said that during the 1984 electoral campaign he stated that "if we have reached an agreement with the military to pave the way for democracy and free elections, it would be absurd to think about condemning them."

Sanguinetti, who claims to be agnostic, advocates the free market, and was trained in a party dedicated to servicing the people, has said that the Colorado Party "is neither nationalist nor populist, but rather socialist, I would say."

In a long interview, the text of which was disseminated last night by the Press Secretariat, Sanguinetti said that the fishing sector should be privatized, that the government should withdraw from some sectors, and that the policy instituting a free monetary exchange market should continue.

Sanguinetti did not rule out the possibility of implementing a shock treatment to reduce inflation. He added that the government is determined to reduce inflation.

Sanguinetti also stated that "the United States is a country where the people hold honesty and commitment in great esteem."

SENATOR BATLLE REPORTS ON MEETING WITH CASTRO

PY191609 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 9 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Colorado Party Senator Jorge Batlle has said, after a 4-hour meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro in Cuba, that "Fidel Castro is, without a doubt, the greatest revolutionary of this century after Lenin."

Batlle told PRENSA LATINA that Uruguay and Cuba have opinions upon which they agree and disagree. He added that in both cases the issues were frankly and openly discussed.

He said that Uruguay and Cuba feel the need to find formulas for peace without violence, for Central America, and stressed that the two countries support the peace efforts of Contadora and the Support Group in the regional conflict.

The Uruguayan politician said Cuban efforts in the scientific field are fantastic, and commented on the possibility of sending young Uruguayans to Cuba to study and do research.

"We talked about many things with Fidel Castro. His personality is very strong, impressive, attractive, open and always up to date regarding knowledge and information about everything. He possesses an enormous natural force, driving things forward in all fields where he participates. I will never forget this meeting," Batlle said.

Batlle said he does not share the philosophical ideas of the Cuban leader, but added that "Fidel Castro is, without a doubt, the greatest revolutionary of this century after Lenin."

FURTHER ON VISIT OF PERUVIAN PRESIDENT GARCIA

Activities Outlined

PA251623 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2205 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Mar (DPA) -- Today in Mexico City, Peruvian President Alan Garcia proposed a "new Latin American democracy" that is "nationalist and anti-imperialist" and that would enable the region to face together the "financial imperialism" threatening the area with its "despicable club" of the foreign debt.

In a speech to members of the Permanent Commission of the National Congress during the first day of his official visit to the Mexican capital, Garcia said that the time has come to act as a group," [no opening quotation marks as received]. "We cannot forsake our peoples in the yoke of exploitation," he added.

Earlier, during the welcome by his Mexican counterpart, Miguel de la Madrid, at the Presidential Palace, the Peruvian president said that the foreign debt is not the only problem that binds Latin Americans together, but there is also "the ideological interventionism or political patronage in Central America" and "the entanglement [moroyal] of material consumerism with which we are linked to an industrial structure and to a single form of financing."

Garcia, who arrived last night in the Mexican capital in the first visit by a Peruvian president to Mexico, held his first round of meeting with De la Madrid. They analyzed the foreign debt problem, the Central American conflict, and the international economic crisis, as the Mexican president noted.

Addressing the Mexican legislators, Garcia referred to the experiences of his government, which broke with the IMF and limited payments of its foreign debt to 10 percent of its exports "so that banks' accountants would not become the legislators of our fatherland."

He also urged Latin American peoples to make a continental revolution to "break the myths and paper tigers that still frighten some people."

Earlier, the president of the permanent commission, Senator Antonio Riva Palacio, said that "it is solely up to each nation to find, in a sovereign manner and before its own people the alternatives and plans it deems appropriate" to solve the foreign debt problem. However, he agreed that there is a need to consider "that social and economic development must come before the mere fulfillment of financial commitments that were made under different circumstances, and that creditors and debtors must justly and equitably share the responsibility and burden of the foreign debt."

De la Madrid also mentioned the topic of the foreign debt in his welcoming speech. However, he said that this was not the only current challenge. He said that we have to overcome the "overall deficiencies of the international economic order that are hampering integral development, which is capable of combining progress with justice and social democracy."

In their meeting, the two presidents urged regional unity to face common problems. De la Madrid said that this unity cannot be based on being identical but on plurality. Garcia replied that Latin America must not "strive for the same model. However, it must struggle in the face of a great problem and of the same great future." The visiting president identified himself with the postulates of the Mexican Revolution of 1910 and said that he was its continuator. Moreover, he asserted that "no one in Latin America who is a nationalist, democrat, or anti-imperialist can stop following Mexico's great example."

Dinner Held

PA251700 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision in Television in Spanish 0300 GMT
25 Mar 87

[Report by Humberto Mares]

[Text] A few moments ago Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid stated that problems such as disarmament, the foreign debt, development, peace, and the technological and scientific revolution, need new political approaches. The president and his wife, Paloma Cordero de la Madrid, are holding a dinner here at the Foreign Ministry in honor of Peruvian President Alan Garcia and his wife, Pilar Nores de Garcia. The Mexican president said that international legal order is frequently violated by forceful policies, interventionism, and economic interests. He said we need clear, immediate answers as we do not want a future with limited development. De la Madrid pointed to the necessity of establishing effective communication policies to obtain favorable answers to the peoples just demands. Otherwise, added De la Madrid, the debtor countries will not be able to undertake the acquired obligations, and this would risk not only the world's economic system, but the future of the countries.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia mentioned the need to show a common front to problems like the foreign debt and commercial ties. Garcia said that it is not possible to grow rapidly and repay as well.

Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid decorated the Peruvian president with the Mexican order of the Aztec eagle for his noteworthy contribution to friendship among peoples.

MOSCOW'S IZVESTIYA INTERVIEWS SEPULVEDA AMOR

For an interview with Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda Amor by IZVESTIYA correspondents L. Korneshov and S. Mikoyan titled, "Sepulveda Amor: Strengthening Mutual Trust," see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 26 March 1987 Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

NONOIL EXPORTS INCREASE BY 14.8 PERCENT

FL211648 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0142 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Guadalajara Mexico, 19 Mar (NOTIMEX) — Jorge Garcia Flores, chairman of the Western National Council of Foreign Trade, has reported that Mexico has stopped being an one-product exporter. Nonoil exports increased by 14.8 percent with incomes amount to \$820 million.

During a news conference in which he was accompanied by Jorge Alarcon Collignon and Alejandro Frunchier, vice president and director, respectively, of the aforementioned group, Garcia Flores added that such exports are expected to increase to at least \$940 million this year. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURE — Police and Army forces from the states of Chihuahua, Mexico, Jalisco, and Veracruz today seized more than 1 billion pesos worth of drugs. Authorities seized 1,600 kg of marijuana, 200 grams of cocaine, and 600 grams of heroin. Presumably 500 kg of marijuana seized from a truck in Jalisco State were to be sent to the United States. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Mar 87 pp 1, 2 PA]

ABADIA SAYS CONTADORA SUPPORTS ARIAS PEACE PLAN

PA211915 Panama City in Spanish 0122 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Panama City, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia today asserted that the Contadora Group will support the peace plan presented by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, "so long as" it is within the framework of the peace group's process.

On 14 March in Chiriqui, in the border area between the two countries, the Costa Rican president requested Panama's mediation to support his peace plan in the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama). Oscar Arias met in the city of David with his Panamanian counterpart, Eric Arturo Delvalle, and with Foreign Minister Abadia Arias, to inaugurate a computerized electric substation that will be of economic benefit for the two countries.

The Panamanian foreign minister said: "President Arias gave us details about his peace proposal and we support it, as long as it is within the framework of the Contadora Group peace process."

According to Abadia Arias, the Costa Rican president assured them that his proposal has been prepared within the peace group's guidelines, and "we believe that, because (Arias) is a serious and responsible man." Abadia added: Since Oscar Arias' proposal is a step toward the final goal, which is Contadora [as received], "we support it."

The Costa Rican president invited his counterparts in the region, with the exception of Nicaragua, to study the plan which, among other things, advocates a cease-fire among rebel and government groups, and "free, pluralist, and democratic elections."

POLITICIANS ON POSSIBLE NORIEGA CANDIDACY

PA241247 Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish 19-26 Mar 87 pp 4, 5

["Cover Story" feature by Lerna Llarena]

[Excerpts] The possible presidential candidacy of Panama's strongman, General Manuel Antonio Noriega Moreno, commander of the Defense Forces, resurfaced in the national political arena when an enthusiastic Republican legislator Jose Young told QUIUBO GRAFICO that his party, which Eric Arturo Delvalle, the current occupant of the Palace of the Herons, belongs would support such a candidacy. Young said that he would propose the launching of Gen Noriega's candidacy for the Presidency in 1989 at the upcoming convention of his party." [quotation marks as published].

Meanwhile, the other members of UNADE [National Democratic Union], except for the Liberal Party, through their leaders, said that should Noriega show up as a candidate in the upcoming elections they will give him their unrestricted support. [passage omitted]

Ramon Sieiro Murgas, secretary general of the Labor Party [PALA], told this reporter: "Should Noriega decide to run for the Presidency of the Republic and run under our alliance -- UNADE -- PALA would support him." He added that as a politician "I would not rule out that possibility," but added "I doubt it very much, because Noriega does not have such aspirations." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Juan Materno Vasquez, member of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Honor Tribunal and a staunch Torrijist, said that "should my party postulate Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega for the Presidency of the Republic for the 1989 elections, I would firmly and wholeheartedly support him." [passage omitted]

However, leaders of the Liberal Party, which is part of UNADE, dodged QUIUBO GRAFICO efforts to obtain their opinion on this matter.

Neither party President Dr Roderick Esquivel, the current vice president of the Republic, nor Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari, who is vying for the presidency of that party, would say whether they would support a Noriega candidacy. [passage omitted]

Finally, QUIUBO GRAFICO questioned attorney Cesar Quintero, former president of the Electoral Tribunal. He said that he does not believe that Gen Noriega 'wants to run for president, because he does not need to do that to hold power,' and because that would constitute an unnecessary headache, because Noriega is the one who rules now." [passage omitted]

Quintero reaffirmed that he does not believe that Noriega is interested in the Presidency, because "the United States wants the military to rule, but does not want a military man as president of the Republic." [passage omitted]

ELECTORAL OFFICIAL ON U.S. AID LINK TO ELECTIONS

PA231646 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Mar 87 1, 22

[Article by Edmundo Dante Dolphy]

[Text] Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, president of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal, has denounced the alleged interventionist attitude of the U.S. Government, saying that it is trying to make its economic assistance to Panama contingent upon the organization of free elections in our country.

Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez stressed: "If that information is true, it would be regrettable to realize that some U.S. sectors are in favor of a defaming interventionism, and that they intend to give a foreign government the right to certify an issue so closely linked to national sovereignty as is the election of the country's authorities."

According to what is known, a U.S. congressman proposed that the report on the Panamanian elections should include points such as the preparation of voting lists -- so that no voter is excluded -- a ban on the use of public funds, and giving all candidates equal access to the media. However, since 1983, all these points are included in our electoral code, a legal instrument that developed with the participation of all political parties.

Magistrate Pulice de Rodriguez said that this attitude casts doubts on the patriotism of those who promote foreign interventionism, because in all modern states, political disagreements are resolved among the citizens, and any foreign interference deserves nothing less than rejection from all sectors.

The president of the Electoral Tribunal said that our country has always permitted international organizations to participate as election observers, as was the case in the 1984 elections, and as was permanently agreed upon in the Tikal Protocol, which was a Panamanian initiative approved in the city of Tikal on 28 September 1985 and signed by the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal.

To provide you with a brief explanation, the Tikal Protocol establishes that in addition to the guarantees included in the corresponding electoral codes, the countries that signed the protocol -- Antigua, Barbados, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, and St Lucia -- should also promote the participation of observers that are members of the Central American and Caribbean electoral organizations. The host country is to invite those organizations, provide the necessary facilities, and issue general recommendations on those matters.

U.S. Conditions Supported

PA230404 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Mar 87 p 1-A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The requirements established by the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee for Western Hemisphere Affairs that the pro-electoral and electoral processes to elect a civilian president in the 1989 elections should be clean, honest, and unquestionable in order for the U.S. to provide economic and military aid to Panama during the 1987 to 1989 fiscal years shows the decisive power that the United States can exert over the fate of our national events. This very fact constitutes an unequivocal reality in each country under its omnipresent sphere of influence and even in those countries that gravitate tangentially [tangencialmente gravitan] around its proven capacity to exert change. We are referring to the capacity which that superpower has of changing the course of history of nations subject to its will, since it is obvious that the resources that it uses to cause these changes are of an unlimited effectiveness. That fact that at present the decision made is to support the frustrated democratic aspirations of Panamanians confirms that in 1984 it chose to cosponsor the fraudulent farce which was perpetrated at that time. For the sake of all nations subject to Washington's all-encompassing plans, may the conditions upon which future economic and military aid are contingent upon be the start of a new policy where the democratic principles that the great Northern nation claims as the chief justification for its presence and actions worldwide prevail.

BRIEFS

IDB LOAN -- Miami, Fl, 22 Mar (EFE) -- It was officially announced that today the IDB granted a \$43.8-million credit in two loans that favor Panama. According to a report, \$26.7 million will be used to finance a program of community services and development, and \$17.1 million for roads with access to Panama City and the purchase of equipment. The first loan will be used to build houses and supply services to low-income sectors in Panama City and the country's interior. The other financing will benefit a plan to improve the Arraijan-La Chorrera highway, its expansion and modernization. This project includes the purchase of road maintenance equipment and machinery. The agreement was signed by Panamanian Planning Minister Ricaurte Vasquez and IDB President Antonio Ortiz Mena. [Text] [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Mar 87 pp 1, 10 PA]

COSTA RICABANK PRESIDENT VIEWS LOWER COFFEE PRICES

PA141350 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Dr Eduardo Lizano, president of the Costa Rican Central Bank, has stated that a 10 percent drop in exports resulting from low coffee prices will bring about the adoption of stronger fiscal and monetary policies and an adjustment in expenditures.

It is estimated that in addition to the abrupt drop in coffee exports, the country's treasury will also suffer, because coffee is the economy's principal source of foreign exchange and generates income through export taxes. Lizano pointed out that "these taxes are particularly important because they are progressive. When exports increase these taxes increase rapidly, but they also decrease rapidly when exports fall."

The reduction in prices is drastic, and its impact on the economy will definitely be negative. It affects the country's access to foreign exchange to pay for its imports and to service the foreign debt. This reduction in foreign exchange will total approximately \$100 million in 1987, which is 10 percent of the 1986 export income.

Dr Lizano feels this reality must be faced and the problem must not be postponed. The measures that have to be taken will be defined once the exact impact on the economy of the fall in coffee prices is determined.

In the foreign debt sector, Costa Rica will not be able to pay interest as it proposed to the banks a few months ago.

Regarding monetary policies, there are two options: Either we let people have fewer colons with which to purchase dollars, or we make fewer dollars available for the same amount of colons. He added that the "menu" is very broad and that some measure or combination of measures could be used, without applying any one measure drastically.

It must not be forgotten that the national economy revolves around coffee. It is said that a good coffee crop makes the best finance minister, and now it would probably also make the best Central Bank president.

CANADIAN DONATION — Petro-Canada Assistance Corporation, PCIAC, a Canadian concern, and the Costa Rican Oil Refinery (RECOPE) have signed an agreement increasing to \$16.9 million a fund of nonreimbursable funds supplied by PCIAC. RECOPE President Roberto Dobles and Peter Towe of PCIAC signed the agreement. The agreement initially stipulated that PCIAC would supply \$2.9 million (Canadian dollars). The fund was increased by \$1.25 million in June 1986, and an agreement was signed on 25 February for another \$12.7 million increase, raising the total to \$16.9 million. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 4 Mar 87 p 2 PA]

EL SALVADORSTUDENTS AT SAN JACINTO SCHOOL TAKEN HOSTAGE

Most Students Evacuated

PA252237 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2154 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Report by Nelson Lopez from the San Jacinto School neighborhood, San Salvador — live]

[Excerpts] To expand on the information we have been providing from the San Jacinto neighborhood following the incursion by an armed man and woman into the unified and mixed school here, we can confirm that almost all the children who were inside the school have been evacuated. Approximately 30 ninth-grade youngsters remain in the principal's office. They have been taken hostage by the armed pair. The other children were removed through windows whose iron bars were broken and through a door that was broken down to allow the students to escape.

Only some teachers and the ninth-grade students we mentioned remain in the school. There are between 25 and 30 students there, according to what some teachers have told us. [passage omitted]

We have a last minute report: Apparently the church has been asked to mediate. Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez has arrived to be briefed on the situation that began when the school was siezed by an armed man and an armed woman. Msgr Rosa Chavez went to the school to learn about the situation and, according to what he said, the armed pair have asked him to mediate. [passage omitted]

Hostagetakers Surrender

PA252350 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2325 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The two, a man and a woman, who were armed with G-3 rifles, have come out following a dialogue with Armed Forces representatives. We have already identified them: The female, Gloria Noemi Escobar Guzman, who is approximately 16 years old, and Juan Francisco Medrano Iraheta are in the hands of the Armed Forces. After a dialogue with military leaders who were present, there was a completely positive outcome: No child was hurt; none of the students who were taken hostage were hurt. No civilian or member of the Armed Forces was hurt either. The two who carried out the action are in perfect condition; they are unharmed. They left the building and agreed to turn themselves over and face a trial for damage caused at the Civil Defense headquarters in Santa Fe Canton, Santo Tomas jurisdiction.

FDR'S GUILLERMO UNGO COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

PA241840 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 87

["Exclusive" telephone interview with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo by reporter Nelson Lopez on 21 March; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Lopez] We have established contact with FDR President Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo. Referring to various activities, we would like to tell our listeners we have heard that Magr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, and Magr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxilliary bishop, participated in several church activities in South America. Dr Ungo, have you held a meeting with them, taking into consideration that the church continues to mediate in the conflict prevailing in our country, El Salvador?

[Ungo] I have not talked directly with Archbishop Rivera y Damas for some time. However, other comrades who represent the two fronts -- the FDR and FMLN -- have met with them on several occasions to discuss certain things. A meeting was recently held between the archbishop and representatives from the two fronts to fulfill past agreements, to maintain constant communication, and to discuss the church's viewpoints and our viewpoints. We seek the mechanisms to achieve progress in the dialogue. We also discussed another topic with the intention of reaching specific agreements concerning the humanization of the war. We specifically discussed the release of prisoners of war on either side and the release of crippled soldiers. Consequently, these points were included in the agenda for a meeting recently held with the archbishop. We believe we must continue with this, because the dialogue has not only become a national need but also a national demand.

[Lopez] Doctor, has the Catholic Church brought up relevant points the FDR-FMLN must develop?

[Ungo] Well, the meeting was recently held, and I have no details about the agenda or how the two sides handled the meeting. I understand there is some concern about FMLN members who have been held prisoner, and we would like a positive solution. Referring to the crippled soldiers, we are discussing practical aspects to see if it is possible to continue with that, because there is another group of crippled fighters who need medical treatment in a hospital. This is based on humanitarian reasons and according to the Geneva Convention. Consequently, this is the type of request being negotiated, and we are trying to find a solution.

[Lopez] Dr Ungo, violent actions have recently taken place in the capital, including the burning of stores, movie theaters, and other attacks. One was carried out against Legislative Assembly President Guillermo Antonio Guevara Lacayo. Doctor, do you think that the FMLN is involved in these actions?

[Ungo] Well, I do not want to comment on this because I think it would be premature and only speculation. I think we should not speculate about such important matters. Consequently, I am surprised that Dr Guevara himself has prematurely implied that the right could be involved, -- even though the left could also be involved. I have also learned about a dispute between Dr Rodriguez Porras and President Duarte. I think the appropriate thing to do is to investigate and wait to see if someone claims responsibility. This proves the climate of violence has been caused by a confrontation -- even a military confrontation -- and the only way to settle the matter is through political means, through dialogue and negotiation. Otherwise -- [changes thought] an armed conflict logically results in violent actions. Therefore, I think no one should be surprised by this situation, because it is not the worst. We saw how Dr Antonio Guevara's house was affected, but there were no casualties.

However, mass bombings are frequent, and many peasants' humble houses -- not just a single residence -- and fields are destroyed; furthermore, the peasants are wounded or killed. These are the consequences of a war, and every attempt should be made to regulate this, at least until a solution is reached through negotiation on the military conflict. We should seek political agreements, and we include the humanitarian aspect of the war, which is regulated by the Geneva Convention.

[Lopez] Right-wing sectors certainly said that this could be a self-inflicted attack, Doctor. Nevertheless, it was said that if the FMLN is involved, the clandestine stations would at least report it and claim responsibility. What is your opinion?

[Ungo] Like I said, this would be mere speculation. The FMLN normally assumes responsibility for its actions. However, the government does not do the same; it is responsible for state terrorism on a large scale, but it has never claimed responsibility. Quite the contrary, the government sometimes blames the perpetrators....[corrects himself] the victims themselves, turning them into perpetrators. The left is more responsible, however. I think this is also the case, because the rumors indicate this was a self-inflicted attack. I would exclude Dr Guevara from this, because I do not think he is capable of doing this simply to blame the right or left. This, however, is also an example of the prevailing lack of credibility. The government has lost credibility, and no one believes its statements or charges. In fact, the people believe the government is capable of anything, even self-inflicted attacks, but I would not think he [Guevara] is involved.

[Lopez] To conclude, Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo: Since you are president of the FDR, we would like to tell you that several labor and business organizations demand the dialogue be continued to seek peace in the country. Have the FMLN and FDR recently contacted government representatives to prepare another meeting?

[Ungo] We have concentrated on presenting all these problems and difficulties to the archbishop, who is the intermediary. We believe it is his turn to try and get the dialogue moving again. It is currently bogged down. We maintain an open attitude, not only toward clear behavior but also toward clear language, and we have even prompted political party meetings. You might recall last year's meeting in Lima, Peru, between the FDR parties: the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] party and the MPSC [as heard] [Social Christian Movement] party together with Christian Democratic officials. You will recall how all the Christian Democrats got confused. Some said yes, others said no. Some said there had been no meeting, others said it had taken place but did not cover certain aspects. At last the people who were interested, including Rey Prendes [Salvadoran Minister of Culture and Communication] said we held a political meeting seeking to get the dialogue under way again. We have therefore taken our own initiative and sought international backing to justify our position. We also believe that internally there could be other types of support that could facilitate this. What we do know is there cannot be a solution in the country without us, and there cannot be dialogue in the country without us. To try and hold partial and incomplete talks is a mistake. Those taking part in the conflict's struggles are the ones that can help out the most, without excluding other sectors, organizations, or institutions. Excluding us is illusory.

We therefore continue with this, and we hope that some day the government comes out with a more consistent position, because Duarte has said many different things in connection with the dialogue. He conditions the dialogue one way, then another. Sometimes he describes it as positive, other times he asks for surrender dialogue. All this has made him lose credibility to a certain degree. As time goes by and dialogue demands increase, paradoxically, one of the sides shows no interest in holding a dialogue, especially when one of the principle powers behind-the-scenes, the Armed Forces command and the Reagan administration, do not show any interest.

HONDURASCONTRAS CONCENTRATING ON BORDER IN OLANCHO

PA240347 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0317 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 23 Mar (REUTER) — Nicaraguan rebels have started to concentrate their troops in the El Patua region in the eastern department of Olancho on the Nicaraguan border, local media reported today.

The anti-Sandinist rebels, financed by the United States, maintain their principal base, El Estrategico in the Yamales region in the eastern department of El Paraiso, 20 km from the Nicaraguan border. Rebel leaders affirmed that the forces have started to leave their bases in El Paraiso to enter Nicaragua. However, local press reports say the contras are concentrating their forces in the neighboring department of Olancho on the Nicaraguan border.

The local radio station, Radio America, reported today that Nicaraguan guerrillas have started to occupy the banks of Patuca River in Olancho. [passage omitted] Olancho is on the border of the Nicaraguan departments of Jinotega and northern Zelaya.

The rebels are reportedly moving their troops to avert the constant Sandinist attacks on the contra bases in El Paraiso and to attempt to enter Nicaragua through the less populated zone of Jinotega and northern Zelaya, local military observers believe.

FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ DISCUSSES ARIAS PROPOSAL

PA242250 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Interview with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras by Julio Armando Valdez; date and place not given; recorded — broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Lopez] ...broad talks were held over the peace initiatives that are taking place in Central America. Ambassador Habib had particular interest in knowing Honduras' reaction and the prospects for the upcoming meeting of the five presidents in Esquipulas in July [month as heard]

[Valdez] What will be our country's position at that summit meeting?

[Lopez] Well, we issued a communique a few days after returning from San Jose in which we indicated our initial reactions. Obviously, it is a difficult topic, with the interests of Honduras and of the other Central American countries at stake. Our initial reaction is that we believe President Arias' initiative — his plans and suggestions, an hour for peace — is a valid document; it is a good working document. However, it lacks some technical aspects that need be corrected for it to be not only a valid document — a good document — but also a feasible document that can be implemented. This is not the first time I have said this, nor do I say this outside the framework of the Costa Rican Government. At the San Jose meeting, we stressed those aspects, understanding that it was a working document, and this is the way it was accepted — open to receiving contributions from all participating countries.

[Valdez] What are the recommendations or suggestions Philip Habib brought with him from Reagan's government?

[Lopez] From the point of view of the U.S. Government, there is interest in Central America, and I believe everyone knows that. The United States makes its observations or suggestions, but it is at the Honduran Government's discretion to follow those that appear to be convenient and in agreement with Honduras's position.

[Valdez] What are those suggestions Ambassador Philip Habib had?

[Lopez] Well, I think you know that the position of the U.S. Government all along has been to try and find a comprehensive an general agreement, not a step by step agreement. The position of Honduras, in general terms, has been quite similar in view of the problems that have existed. It does not make much sense to the Honduran Government that one problem that plagues one country be resolved, while not resolving others of equal importance. This has been the concept that has prevailed in the Contadora negotiations and has been accepted by the five Central American countries. There are some aspects that are quite general and others that are more detailed, but, of course, those I am unable to disclose.

[Valdez] What are the technical failures in Oscar Arias' proposal?

[Lopez] There is the suggestion of a cease-fire agreement between the five Central American presidents. This is not very realistic, as no one I know of knows of any armed conflict between countries — between the Armed Forces of the Central American countries. What does exist and is the underlying factor in the Central American crisis — and produces border incidents — is the existence of armed opposition groups who defy and seek to overthrow governments, as is especially the situation in El Salvador and Nicaragua. It would not be very helpful to have Honduras and the remaining Central American countries agree on a cease-fire since there is no real war situation among us. Therefore, we believe talks should be held not only with the unarmed internal opposition, as President Arias proposes, but with the armed opposition. Otherwise, the pacification plans within those countries that are suffering armed upheaval are not going to be effective, because if the armed opposition does not agree to a cease-fire, it makes no sense for the government to proclaim one and assume the responsibility for it.

[Valdez] Will Honduras support Oscar Arias' proposal?

[Lopez] Look, we supported President Arias' proposal from the start, provided it is a working document that is discussed by the five countries. This is the position of the four presidents who attended the San Jose meeting. It would be senseless to say we fully endorses President Arias' document, because we knew from the start it would be subject to discussions and negotiations.

BRIEFS

CELAM SECRETARY APPOINTMENT — Honduran Bishop Oscar Andres Rodriguez has been appointed secretary general of the Latin American Bishops Conference, CELAM, during the 21st CELAM regular assembly held in Paraguay. [Summary] [San Jose RUMBO in Spanish 20-26 Mar 87 p A PA]

NICARAGUAU.S. ACCUSED OF BLOCKING IDB LOANS TO MANAGUA

PA250443 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Nicaragua today accused the United States of blackmailing the IDB administration with political threats with the intention of blocking loans for Managua. Comrade Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua, informed the IDB Governors' General Assembly that the United States has blocked credits from that bank to Nicaragua since 1982. The efforts to prevent the IDB's financial aid to Nicaragua have been supported by the bank's administration, according to Comrade Cuadra Chamorro's speech, which was read to the assembly by Vice Foreign Cooperation Minister Pedro Antonio Blandon.

We have previously stated that the IDB has not approved loans for Nicaragua for the last 5 years, Cuadra Chamorro said. A request for agrarian and livestock credit presented in 1982 was subject to delays, irregular procedures, and political interference, which prevented its presentation for the directorate's review. Cuadra Chamorro said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz sent a letter to the IDB president stating he opposed our request. Shultz argued that the U.S. Congress would have problems approving resources for the IDB if the Nicaraguan request was presented to the directorate. This type of argument is clearly of a political nature and unacceptable for an organization like the IDB; it also represents blackmail of the bank's administration, Comrade Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro asserted in Miami.

The pressure exerted to prevent the IDB's financial aid to Nicaragua has been supported by the bank's directorate. Chamorro said this was aimed at turning the bank into a financial instrument for U.S. foreign policy. The Latin American and foreign countries' opposition to these efforts proves a multilateral spirit prevails. Nicaragua opposes the idea of granting a specific country the right to veto the bank's activities or loan requests, he added. Chamorro also said he opposes new conditions in the IDB because it would become a financial agency owned by the institution's majority partner, meaning the United States.

CALERO SAYS INSURGENTS 'STRONGER THAN EVER'

PA251225 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2157 GMT 24 Mar 87

[By Jeannine Camps]

[Excerpts] Miami, 24 Mar (EFE) — "Contra" leader Adolfo Calero told EFE that with the most recent U.S. aid turned into arms, ammunition, and equipment the Nicaraguan insurgents are "stronger than ever" since the war against the Managua government began 6 years ago.

During an interview with EFE in the offices of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) in Miami, Calero confirmed that some 400 rebel officials completed training at U.S. military bases and that 10,000 guerrillas went through training in an area the "contras" hold near the Honduran border.

"We have everything now, and that is why the Sandinists have had to acknowledge that there are an average of seven clashes a day throughout the country," said Calero, chief of the FDN, the largest rebel group which makes up 90 percent of the armed branch of the "contras." [passage omitted] "U.S. aid is needed to operate at maximum efficiency," Calero admitted.

The rebels, who announced they would step up war in Nicaragua in April, said they are "moving ahead of schedule." In their new offensive they have the help of the CIA, which for the first time since the financing of the "contras" began in 1981 has the "legal" authorization of the U.S. Congress and Government. "We exchange intelligence information. Obviously, they have all the resources, satellites, and planes to take pictures; however, the CIA does not tell us how and when to attack. That is impossible," the rebel leader said.

U.S. sources stated that the CIA and the specialized "Green Berets" have trained more than 1,000 men in guerrilla tactics, sabotage, demolition, and parachuting. Calero acknowledged that 400 officials received special training in U.S. territory, but he refused to specify the site "to prevent publicity." Press sources claim it was Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. [passage omitted]

"It is only a pressure factor, which, added to the UNO political restructure, will guarantee the [number indistinct] millions that President Ronald Reagan will request next year," the rebel leader said. The military pressure and the transformation of the opposition in exile into a "democratic alternative" are the factors that will move the Sandinists to negotiate, according to Calero. "All wars end up at the negotiation table. It is not a matter of annihilating every soldier," Calero explained. He recently announced his candidacy for the conservative faction to the new broadened UNO directorate, which is under discussion.

Calero is confident the military pressure could lead to a "coup d'etat" among the Sandinist military forces. There are discontented factions among these forces, he said. "We must not forget this is a civil war among brothers and relatives."

Finally, he said Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace plan, which needs some "fine tuning," is viable. "As for a cease-fire, we propose the declaration of neutral areas and clear guarantees for combatants," he added.

CONTRAS OBJECT TO COSTA RICAN PEACE PROPOSAL

PA251753 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0918 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Panama City, 25 Mar (EFE) — The Nicaraguan "contras" have been the first to present objections to the peace plan proposed by Costa Rica shortly after the arrival of the U.S. special envoy for Central America, Philip Habib. These objections were presented yesterday to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, member of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO), said the objections were "well thought out" and prepared by "contra" experts in Miami.

Chamorro made statements to EFE, but he refused to disclose the contents of the document containing the objections, saying he preferred the Costa Rican Government make the announcement, if they considered it necessary. This week the "contras" will deliver a copy of the document to the Honduran, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan presidents, Chamorro added. [passage omitted]

PAPER REPORTS ON REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES

PA150155 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] The number of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and Costa Rica has decreased considerably over the past 2 years. This reduction coincides with the wearing out of the counterrevolution, which has been dealt heavy military blows.

The drama of the expatriates, one of the results of the war imposed on Nicaragua, began several years ago with the recruitment, through kidnappings and deception, of thousands of civilians who were taken out of the country by mercenary forces, who have called their victims "refugees" since then.

The nearly 30,000 Nicaraguans, most of them Miskito Indians who have refused to set up camp south of Honduras since the end of 1981, began to return to their homeland when amnesty decrees were issued. In the case of the Atlantic coast, this return started at the beginning of the autonomy process, which continues to progress in that region.

According to a report by Jaime Ruiz de Santiago, UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees] representative in Managua, the organization repatriated only 217 Nicaraguans from Honduras in 1984. Because of the extent of terrorist escalation in the country, this year is regarded as one of the hardest for the Nicaraguan people.

In 1985, when the mercenary activity diminished and the EPS attacks increased, the number of refugees who decided to return to Nicaragua through the mediation of the UNHCR rose to 1,100. This figure does not include the number of repatriates not handled by this UN organization.

According to the president's annual report, the Somozists suffered 6,950 casualties in 1986, of which 4,532 were dead mercenaries. Of the 11,000 men recruited at the end of 1985, only 6,000 were left at the end of the last year, most of them stationed in Honduran territory.

Also during 1986, 10,000 Nicaraguan civilians returned to the country from Honduras. The UNHCR handled the return of 2,000 of these civilians, "but more than 8,000 people, most of them Indians, returned to Nicaraguan of their own volition and without the aid of any organization," Ruiz de Santiago remarked.

The comparison of statistics becomes even more eloquent if we consider that in the first 2 and 1/2 months of 1987 alone 838 civilians returned to the homeland, 113 of whom entered the country through the El Espino Bridge yesterday.

Asked about the causes of the repatriation of more than 2,000 people through UNHCR's good offices in 1986, Ruiz de Santiago said this was made possible by the dissemination abroad of programs for the repatriates and return procedures.

The official said: "It is very important to know — and this is fundamental for their return — that those who come back enjoy every guarantee of safety in this country and are helped into development programs that include social benefits, so they can live decently."

He said that for this reason his organization has asked diplomatic representatives in Nicaragua to advertise the repatriation procedures in their countries, always stressing the voluntary nature of the return. He commented: "The procedure will be completed in a matter of days."

He explained that there are UNHCR delegates living with refugees at all UNHCR camps. These officials receive every return request, making sure that the return requested is voluntary and genuine. Next, the personal data of the would-be repatriates are taken down and the repatriation procedures carried out.

Although he has never been at the Honduran refugee camps, Ruiz de Santiago said the Honduran authorities do not oppose repatriation. "Generally speaking, they want to back our efforts and do not raise any obstacles.... It is a very serious problem for any country to have refugees in its territory."

Of the 120,000 refugees in the five neighboring countries, there are more than 40,000 in Honduras. Of those, between 20,000 and 25,000 are Nicaraguans. Honduras ranks seventh among the countries where the UNHCR has invested money, with \$11.5 million allotted for 1986 alone.

The diplomatic representative mentioned food, housing, and education as the most important of the fundamental services the organization offers the refugees. The job opportunities for refugees are few, and depend on the situation in each country.

Imported canned food is distributed only in emergency cases. In a normal situation -- within the "normalcy" of the camps -- the type of food should be the same the refugee had in his country of origin. "This is fundamental, because alien or foreign patterns should not be imposed. Such an imposition would make an already dramatic situation unbearable."

Ruiz de Santiago thinks it is difficult for the UNHCR to establish which of its duties is more important: Whether it is the care of the refugees at the camps or the repatriation process, which entails a high cost in food, housing, and health.

The situation of the refugees represents huge expenses, particularly because being a refugee often becomes a permanent way of life. Ruiz de Santiago said: "People are born, live, and die in refugee camps throughout the world. This will always be a human drama." He also remarked: "Repatriation, even considering the efforts required, is the solution for the problem of the refugees."

Referring to the specific case of Nicaragua, the UNHCR delegate emphasized the government's support for this organization's work. "We have always been assisted by the authorities, particularly by the local officials, with the problem of the refugees."

He pointed out that in every transfer and relocation of repatriates, Nicaraguan agencies such as the Immigration Department, the INTLI [expansion not given], MINVAH [Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements], and MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform], among others, participate. These agencies and ministries work together to assist with the social needs of the groups which resettle in the country.

These organizations have decisively backed the UNHCR's efforts in the country. As of last August, these efforts dealt chiefly with the so-called Repatriation and Rehabilitation Program for Indians on the Atlantic Coast. The program is designed to take care of about 3,000 people with a \$300,000 UNHCR budget.

This permitted the relocation of 1,000 Miskito Indians at Sandy Bay and 1,000 Sumus Indians at El Salto, Bonanza, Ruiz de Santiago said. He announced that the government's request to expand this program will be accepted by the international organization shortly.

The program, which will end in June, will be expanded to include 8,000 more repatriates and a \$1.5 million budget, the official reported. He feels certain that "the approval of this request will be officially announced in about 3 weeks" by the UNHCR office in Geneva.

He added that, in the development of the year-long project, the UNHCR was supported by other UN organizations, such as the World Food Program. He also said UNICEF and PNID [expansion not given] have also shown interest in cooperating with the UNHCR in the repatriation of Nicaraguan Indians. On the Atlantic Coast, there are already construction materials for nearly 300 homes, which the people themselves will build at Bonanza and Sandy Bay.

Ruiz de Santiago emphasized the revolutionary government's interest in assisting with the repatriation process because Nicaragua is a cosigner of legal documents dealing with refugees, such as the 1951 Geneva Convention, the 1967 New York Statement, and the Cartagena Consensus. Nicaragua has also contributed at every international forum in which important resolutions about refugees and repatriates have been adopted, he concluded.

BRIEFS

ARCE RECEIVES GDR DELEGATION -- Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, vice coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, this afternoon received a delegation of the Socialist Unity Party of the GDR headed by Comrade Guenter Pieper, member of the Central Committee and head of the International Relations Department. Julio Lopez, head of the FSLN International Relations Department, Heinrich Marz, GDR Ambassador to the GDR, were also present. [Text] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Mar 87 PA]

EPS REASSIGNMENTS -- The Public and Foreign Relations Office of the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has announced the following reassignments within the EPS, effective 24 March: Lieutenant Colonel Emmett Lang Salmeron was named chief of EPS reserve units; Lt Col Javier Pichardo Ramirez replaces Lang as chief of the Sandinist Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense; Lt Col Carlos Brenes Sanchez was appointed chief of the 2d Military Region; and Major Adolfo Chamorro is now deputy chief of the Central Political Directorates. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Mar 87 PA]

VENEZUELA DISAGREES WITH U.S. IDB DEMANDS

PA250435 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Venezuelan Finance Minister Manuel Azpurua has expressed disagreement with the changes sought by the United States in the voting system of the IDB, which would strip Latin America of its power to decide on the programs carried out by that credit organization.

During the meeting that is taking place in Miami, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker reiterated that his country is demanding that the majority necessary for approval of all of the bank's operations be raised, because if these conditions are not approved the United States will not participate in the replenishment of funds.

The Venezuelan finance minister said that the inefficient financial management of the international banks is blamed on the indebted countries, and this has forced the Third World countries to make huge economic sacrifices, thus affecting the poorest sectors of the population.

CTC DELEGATION MEETS WITH MEXICAN UNION LEADERS

FL181834 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City — Jesus Escandel, secretary for international relations of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, has met with Mexican trade union leaders to discuss bilateral cooperation.

Escandel, who is in Mexico City at the head of a Cuban delegation to the meeting of the Permanent Congress of the Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers, said that the traditional friendly ties between Cuban and Mexican workers have become stronger. He told the press that during a meeting with Senator Arturo Romo, secretary of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, the two voiced similar opinions on the Latin American foreign debt problem and on the need for a new international economic order.

DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY PRESIDENT VISITS

Discusses Bilateral Relations

FL210327 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Statement by Dominican Revolutionary Party President Francisco Pena Gomez on 20 March — recorded]

[Text] A 111-member delegation from the Dominican Republic arrived in Havana today on a friendly and fraternal visit to our country. The delegation is headed by Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, president of the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party, and includes parliamentarians, businessmen, doctors, journalists, foreign ministers, and representatives from several political organizations. The visitors were met by Manuel Pineiro Losada, chief of the America Department of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee.

During their stay in Cuba, the Dominican delegation will tour areas of economic, social, and historic interest and will meet with government officials. Tonight they will attend an official reception at the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples, ICAP.

Pena Gomez, who presides over the Latin American Socialist International Committee, made statements to reporters shortly after his arrival at the Jose Marti International Airport.

[Begin recording] I think there is a historical thread of sympathy, of mutual consideration, respect, and admiration between the two peoples. There are indestructible historic bridges between the two nations since Hatuey crossed the ocean to die for Cuban liberty. These ties were consolidated when the renowned, the unbeatable Maximo Gomez illuminated the sky of the imminent Republic of Cuba with his incendiary torch.

There are also family ties, families who fled the Dominican Republic to live in Cuba in the 17th century. There are blood ties. There are historical and geographic ties between our two countries.

Even though formal relations, diplomatic relations, have not existed, the historic relation between the peoples remains intact so that the Cuban people receive general sympathy from the Dominican people. This is natural between two nations who are part of a geographical community that will never be divided by political conflict.

I believe the thawing of relations is occurring between the current government, ourselves, and all the sectors represented here. The proposal for rapprochement is appreciated. [end recording]

Meets With Education Minister

FL240228 Havana Television Cuban-Network in Spanish 1515 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Minister of Higher Education Fernando Vecino Alegret has received part of the Dominican delegation visiting Cuba headed by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party and vice president of the Socialist International. Vecino Alegret explained that currently the country has 14 higher education centers operating under the Higher Education Ministry and 32 others under other organizations. He noted that there are approximately 300,000 university students.

Interviews Castro

FL240110 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 87

[By Orlando Contreras]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro granted an extensive interview to Francisco Pena Gomez, president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, who returned to his country this afternoon ahead of the delegation of over 100 personalities who arrived in Havana last Friday [20 March]. Hours earlier, Fidel hosted a reception for the Dominican delegation headed by Pena Gomez, who is also vice president of the Latin American Socialist International.

Pena Gomez told "El Rapido" [name of newscast] that he is writing a book titled "Conversations With Great Latin American and European Leaders" and that the interviews, such as the one granted by the Cuban President, will be carried by his country's television and by other countries on the continent.

Pena Gomez said that these unofficial friendly contacts strengthen historic ties linking the Cuban and Dominican peoples.

[Begin Pena Gomez recording] I believe that the most important thing is that at the margin of official relations, which will be established when the Dominican Government decides to do so, we are in a position to broaden those relations at the cultural and sports level, and at the level of the country's various institutions. I believe here we have numerous presidents of Dominican associations who have established a direct link with their Cuban counterparts. That also implies a thawing, because those relations are going to be maintained and strengthened. This is how it should be because the distance and isolation between two brother countries that are as historically related as Cuba and the Dominican Republic cannot be. [end recording]

Pena Gomez said the United States will never be able to defeat the Sandinist revolution and favored a negotiated solution for the Central American crisis. He added that the situation in that region does not have a military solution.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MIXED COMMISSION MEETS

FL231510 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Ernesto Melendez, Cuban minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, arrived today in Georgetown to represent our country at the 12th session of the Cuba-Guyana Intergovernmental Mixed Commission. The talks, at the level of experts, began in Georgetown on 18 March and will conclude on 25 March with the signing of a commercial protocol and agreements for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the two nations. According to this year's plans, Cuba's help will be increased in the areas of health and education. The number of doctors and teachers who are working in that South American country will go up significantly. Exchange in the areas of culture and sports and Cuban help in the field of ceramics will also grow. There are plans for the local development of the ceramics industry.

Trade Negotiations Begin

FL241657 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Cuba and Guyana have begun negotiations in Georgetown for the signing of trade agreements that include barter operations with new perspectives. Barter-type transactions are the simplest type of trade, since merchandise or services are exchanged between two countries without using money.

FURTHER ON VISIT BY PLO'S FARUQ QADDUMI

FL260234 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A few hours before his departure, Faruq Qaddumi granted a news conference in which he referred to the results of his visit to Cuba.

[Qaddumi in Arabic with consecutive Spanish translation] We have held official talks in which we have discussed various common matters and the basis for cooperation and coordination between two friendly sides that cooperate in all areas of the international scene, international events, and the United Nations.

Our views have been in agreement in all these areas. We have also discussed bilateral relations and cooperation with our Cuban friends. We know that Cuba provides great support and help to the PLO in all possible areas.

Other subjects discussed by Qaddumi were the upcoming 18th Palestine National Council, in which a new PLO leadership will be elected, and the current situation in the Middle East, including the Lebanese Shi'ite forces blockade of Palestine camps in Beirut.

FURTHER ON VISIT BY ALGERIA'S MESSAADIA

Official Talks Begin

FL241319 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The high-level delegation of the National Liberation Front [FLN], presided over by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Politburo and leader of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, has begun official talks with Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee. During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged extensive information on the international political situation.

The Algerian leader had earlier placed a floral wreath at the monument to our national hero, Jose Marti. Risquet accompanied the distinguished visitor and his delegation to the historic location. The Algerian delegation is visiting our country at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. During their stay in Cuba they will visit areas of historic, political, and social interest.

Tours Hospital, School

FL242220 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Algeria's National Liberation Front [FLN] delegation, headed by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, leader of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, visited today the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital and the Nino Lopez National School of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Havana.

The visitors were received at the hospital by First Deputy Director Dr Nelson Patallo, who showed them the modern facilities and the patients' lunch room. The Algerian delegation was met at the PCC school by its rector, Raul Valdes Vivo, who explained that the 25-year-old education center trains cadres who will participate in the building of socialism and has students from 45 countries. He added that the study programs are different because Cuban students focus on socialist economy while students from Third World countries that are still not in power are told about the unfairness of imperialism.

BURKINA FASO FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS OFFICIALS

Talks Opens

FL161540 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The official talks between Foreign Ministers Leandre Bassolet of Burkina Faso and Isidoro Malmierca Peoli of Cuba have begun at the Foreign Ministry in Havana.

Bilateral relations, the activities of the Nonaligned ministerial meeting held in Guyana, and the international scene, especially Central America, were the topics discussed at the fraternal meeting. Malmierca told the distinguished visitors from Burkina Faso that relations between the two countries are not formal but revolutionary and combative.

Meets With Risquet

FL170053 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Today in Havana, Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, received Leandre Bassolet, Burkinabe minister of external relations and cooperation. The foreign minister is visiting Cuba and heads a delegation from Burkina Faso. The meeting between Risquet and Bassolet was held in an atmosphere of camaraderie and they discussed bilateral relations and the international situation.

Meets With Castro

FL171604 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has received Burkinabe Foreign Minister Leandre Bassolet, who is conducting an official, friendly visit to Cuba after participating in the special ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement that took place in Guyana.

During the meeting, which developed amid a climate of friendship, the international situation, the results of the ministerial meeting, and the evolution of relations and cooperation between Burkina Faso and Cuba were discussed. [passage omitted]

Signs Agreement

FL181854 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The Cuban and Burkinabe Foreign Ministers, Isidoro Malmierca and Leandre Bassolet respectively, have signed an executive protocol in Havana that will be in effect from 1987-89. It provides for increased cooperation in culture, education, and sports. The agreement includes resources to establish a field school to train young Burkinabe students to meet the Burkinabe people's needs in education and the training of cadres.

CABRISAS MEETS WITH MAURITIAN TRADE MINISTER

FL240206 Havana Television Cuban Network in Spanish 1515 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Ricardo Cabrisas, foreign trade minister, has met in Havana with Beergoonath Ghurburrun, Mauritian Trade and Navigation minister, with whom he discussed the possibilities of establishing and developing trade relations with the signing of a trade agreement between the two countries.

ICAP PRESIDENT MEETS WITH PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR

FL140052 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 2230 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Rene Rodriguez Cruz, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, [ICAP], met at ICAP headquarters with Her Excellency Ofelia Gonzalez, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Cuba. The meeting took place in a fraternal atmosphere during which aspects related to the friendship and solidarity between the two countries were discussed.

HIGH-RANKING GDR DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

FL231340 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] A high-level delegation from the GDR has arrived in our country. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Pedro Miret Prieto, both members of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, were on hand to welcome the delegation. The group is headed by Gunther Kleiber, member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers. Also present were Karl Heinz, GDR ambassador to Cuba, and other officials. During his stay in Cuba, Kleiber will visit places of economic and social interest and hold official talks with party and state leaders.

FRENCH FIRM TO BUILD HARBOR IN MATANZAS

FL201755 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The construction and assembly of the Matanzas Oil Center facilities will receive a boost this year as men and equipment, now building the 330-megawatt thermoelectric power plant, become available. Within the next few months, a French construction firm will begin building at Matanzas Bay a deepwater harbor, where vessels up to 150,000 tons capacity can dock. At the same time, the foundation work for the installation of the first 50,000 cubic-meter tank for the supertanker base is under way. Its starter complex includes five of these giants with floating ceilings, similar to the one that will be completed this year in the nation's oil production center.

Over 150 members of the Youth Workers Army have been participating for several months now in this project, which is unprecedented in the country. They are being trained in the difficult work shared by construction workers of the Basic Industry Ministry. The quality of the work done so far, in a project where totally new tasks and technology are being used in the country, has to be noted.

MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE FUEL SUPPLY IN HAVANA

FL250302 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 2130 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Several measures have been taken to provide greater stability in kerosene and alcohol delivery to Havana consumers. Some of them were announced during a meeting held at the Havana Communist Party of Cuba Provincial Committee, while others have been taken to higher authorities.

In the case of alcohol, a plan was presented that will allow the delivery this year of over 901,000 liters per month. Regarding kerosene, the poor delivery efficiency in some of the 1,576 sale centers was acknowledged. A greater flexibility among supplies and retail centers was coordinated so that stores are kept open longer and receive the supplies. Angel Quintanilla, deputy director of retail commerce, assured that those establishments will remain open as long as necessary and wait for the kerosene, because there are still some places that have not received the March shipment.

Currently in Havana, there are over 206,000 family units that cook with this fuel, using some 7 million liters a month.

PRISONERS POISONED WITH METHANOL ALCOHOL

FL251755 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Several prisoners with symptoms of poisoning were treated at the (Cubican) Jail Medical Center on the morning of 20 March. The prisoners were transferred immediately to the National Prison Hospital at the Combinado del Este Jail. As the days passed the number of poisoned prisoners rose to 306. They were transferred to hospitals like the Hermanos Ameijeiras, Calixto Garcia, [word indistinct], Institute of Nephrology, and Naval Clinical and Surgical Hospital. At these centers the prisoners were treated for ingestion of methanol alcohol. The treatment included dialysis, with the use of artificial kidneys. To date, 7 of the patients have died, 17 have been placed on the seriously ill list, and 101 patients are reported in serious condition or are under observation. The rest of the patients have been released.

The Interior Ministry medical office immediately established that the poisoning was due to ingestion of methanol alcohol. Jail authorities have begun an investigation to learn the causes of this regrettable incident. [passage indistinct]

RAINS AFFECT SUGAR PRODUCTION IN MATANZAS

FL232120 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1806 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The mills at the Espana Republicana complex in Perico, Matanzas, have been stopped once again because rains that have fallen in the past few hours have not permitted cutting of the sugarcane. This has happened several times between 11 and 22 March. More than 200 hours have been lost because of the rains. To these hours we must add the ones lost because of interruptions or breakdowns. Even though the number of hours lost is not as high as in previous harvests, this affects the stability of the mill and endangers the fulfillment of the plan for the production of sugar.

Meanwhile, (Barbara Vassallo) reports that the production of refined sugar at 61 mills was affected by the breakdown of two tandems. In order to save fuel, processing of sugar was also suspended.

PINAR DEL RIO REFINERIES 30,000 TONS BEHIND PLAN

FL192044 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Report by Cabrera Penado from Pinar del Rio]

[Text] Pinar del Rio's five refineries are attempting to recover. If there are no more rainstorms, this will be the decisive recovery effort of this harvest session. Agricultural and industrial workers at the Pinar del Rio complexes are struggling against a delay of more than 30,000 tons of sugar, with regard to established plans. However, their spirit of victory is high, and they are confident that May will be the last month of the harvest cycle.

This is the moment when political and material attention to the cutters and industrial workers must be most intense. The party leadership in Pinar del Rio has thus decided to invigorate support for each brigade, compound group, and harvest center.

FOREIGN DEBT BLAMED FOR MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN

PA162132 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 87

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] In most Latin American countries, the first thing a visitor notices is the large number of children that sell newspapers, clean shoes, or sell candies, while the sparse clothing that covers their emaciated bodies indicates that their lives are very difficult.

An ILO study published at the end of 1986 reports that in the large and rich Latin American region, 1 out of 10 infants born alive dies before reaching the age of 5. This figure is doubled and even tripled in rural areas.

The infants that manage to survive provide statistical information that is no less terrible. For example, in Colombia 40 percent of minors are underfed; 49 percent are underfed in Chile; and in Ecuador, this figure rises to 55 percent. Child malnutrition has become a widespread disease on the continent. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, director of the Pan-American Health Organization, has stated that, added to this misfortune, there are more than 130 million persons who do not receive any health benefits. UNICEF reports that a 70 percent decrease in the growth rate of developing countries makes malnutrition worse among children of poorer homes.

Latin American and Caribbean countries are included in this dramatic percentage, which is increasing annually due to the enormous sums disbursed by these nations to cover their foreign debts. Billions of dollars in profits end up annually in the vaults of foreign banks, which are attempting by all means to collect the close to \$400 billion that the Latin American countries owe them. The powerful industrial countries that are stealing the riches from Latin America as their financial sectors tighten the reins of debt, remain insensitive to this problem, which generates poverty and violence. It is paradoxical that many developed nations that were proclaiming the validity of human rights only a short time ago should try to ignore the causes of malnutrition and death for millions of children.

It is undeniable that the serious situation of children on this continent is increased by the foreign debt and, despite the discouraging prospects, the unity of all countries is necessary to eliminate, among other things, the restriction on resources for children.

CTC CALLS FOR WORKER INVOLVEMENT IN MEETINGS

FL161700 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] and the national trade unions have called on all the country's workers to take part in the meetings to determine the figures in the 1987 economic plan. This process will begin on Sunday and go on until 15 April throughout the country. The CTC document cites the need for the workers to analyze, discuss, and agree on specific and measurable commitments that will ensure the savings of all kinds of resources, particularly raw materials and energy sources, as well as the reduction of budgeted expenses wherever necessary. Volunteer work, the optimal utilization of the work day, the eradication of negligence, and the strengthening of labor discipline are the tasks in which the labor movement should engage all its efforts. The meetings, which all workers are exhorted to attend, is an ideal vehicle to adopt concrete measures designed to improve quality in each one of the areas of our economy, especially in services, education, and medical care. These meetings should not seek solely to decide measures, but also to realize them in each work center, systematize their control, and apply socialist emulation as the fundamental working tool.

SPECIALIZED EMPLOYMENT COMMISSIONS CREATED

FL111758 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Specialized commissions in every enterprise in the country have been officially created in each of the provinces to analyze the possible placement this year of workers, who have not been included in the national economic plan. The commission are presided over by the State Committee for Labor in every province and include representatives from the planning and financial sectors, as well as from the Cuban National Bank and the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions.

As a result of the plan's limitations, the commissions' main goal during that stage will be to take an inventory and to provide an accurate count on the number of idled workers.

BRIEFS

NEW NAVIGATION SYSTEM APPROVED -- The implementation and dissemination of the "Meteo-Cuba" scientific analysis system, designed to make ocean travel time shorter, safer, and more cost-efficient, has been approved through the signing of a document in Havana. Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate Politburo member and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, and Vice Transportation Minister Hugo Vivar released the document allowing the use of this system, by which Cuba becomes the fifth country in the world and the first Third World nation to possess all resources to suggest the best navigation routes for Cuban vessels. [Text] [Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Mar 87 FL]

CPSA LEADER CRITICIZES REGIONAL PEACE FORCE

FL231516 Bridgetown CANA in English 2000 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 22, CANA — The development of a Caribbean peace keeping force, first used in Grenada after the U.S. invasion in 1983, has come under strong attack from the president of the Caribbean Public Service Association (CPSA).

According to David de Marque, the force is being used by some Caribbean governments "to advance the political interests of those who control the reigns of state power."

"The result is that the independence of the Caribbean people are [as received] slowly eroded and our sovereignty prostituted," he told delegates attending yesterday's annual general meeting of the Grenada Public Workers Union (PWU).

St Lucian-born De Marque stated that despite the utterances by the "demagogues" in the region about political and economic unity the issue of regional unit continues to escape reality.

"The sole reason is because the masters who pull the puppet strings are obviously against integration," he said.

BARBADOSEXPORT EFFORTS SHIFT AWAY FROM CARICOM

FL181436 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 17 Mar 87

[By Sandra Baptiste]

[Text] Bridgetown, March 17, CANA — The Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (EPC) is withdrawing its representative in Trinidad and Tobago from month-end and will concentrate its marketing efforts on non-Caricom countries, a top official said today.

Executive Director of the corporation Phillip Williams said also that the change was triggered by a decline in the purchasing power in the once lucrative market. Williams told CANA that the EPC had concentrated on the Caribbean Community (Caricom) market for several years and marketing was no longer a [word indistinct] constraint in trade with the region. The difficulties which the manufacturers face are the protectionist tendencies in the regional market, and these are matters which have to be dealt with at a different level — government to government and Ministry of Trade level, Williams said in an interview.

He said prior to 1983, when licensing and foreign exchange restrictions were imposed by Port of Spain, trade with Trinidad and Tobago grew at a rate of 30 percent annually, amounting to around BDS 80 million dollars [Barbados dollars]. This is in sharp contrast with the almost 25 million dollars in exports for the first eleven months of last year.

Williams said Barbados high commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Frank da Silva, a former manufacturer, will oversee trade promotion activities in Port of Spain.

The EPC official said the corporation's main emphasis in 1987 will be on the extra-regional market. Its programmes, he said would be fine tuned following its annual exporters conference at month end, but already consideration has been given to stationing more EPC representatives overseas, depending on market viability.

Williams said the reduction in the EPC's allocation from government of BDS 2.5 million dollars for 1986-1987 financial year to 1.9 million dollars over the next year was bound to impact on its services, but declined to say to what extent. It's a decision that one has to live with.

He said the EPC would be placing emphasis on training this year, with attention likely to be given to the furniture and the electronics industry in addition to an on-going garment programme at the island's polytechnic.

Williams said there was a dire need for new products, new manufacturing enterprises and improved management to meet the needs of the extra-regional market. Government and the private sector, he said, needed to inject capital into the manufacturing sector to allow more new businesses to flourish and rescue some ailing industries.

GRENADA

CUBA ASKS FOR SECURITY MONEY ON PENDING CASE

FL240330 Bridgetown CANA in English 1839 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 23, CANA -- Grenada's Legal Affairs Department has asked Cuba to deposit 100,000 U.S. dollars as a security precondition in relation to the compensation claims to be heard by the High Court here, according to a spokesman for the department.

The spokesman said a letter was recently sent to lawyers representing Cuba asking for 50,000 U.S. dollars to be deposited in each case. This followed a ruling by the Grenada Court of Appeals ten days ago that the state could make such a request.

The appeals court judged ruled that it was the state and not acting Chief James Patterson who could request Havana to make a deposit as a precondition for hearing the cases.

Patterson had earlier told lawyers appearing for the Cubans that they would have to deposit 2,500 East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar -- 37 U.S. cents) before the matter is heard.

Havana is seeking over 15 million EC dollars in compensation from Grenada for several pieces of construction equipment and an Air Cubana plane which was damaged during the 1983 U.S.-led invasion of the island. The equipment was used by Cuba to help Grenada's leftist Peoples' Revolutionary Government (PRG) build the Point Salines International Airport.

The PRG was Cuba's closet friend in the English-speaking Caribbean during the 1979-83 Grenada revolution.

PWU LEADER CALLS CIVIL SERVICE MORALE LOW

FL231515 Bridgetown CANA in English 1954 GMT 22 March 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 22, CANA — Morale in the Grenada civil service is low, according to the president of the Public Service Union (PWU) who says he is not about to call for improved productivity.

Citing current difficulties with the government over pay and retrenchment, Basil Harford said the process of collective bargaining was under threat and the administration was treating its employees with the scantiest of courtesies. What is very clear...is that the mutual respect which should exist between labour and employer is quickly being frustrated. The dialogue which should attend the process of employer/employee relationship no longer seems to exist, Harford told the PWU's annual general meeting.

He also spoke of a possible collapse of the public service and of an existing low morale among civil servants, which could decline further if government persist with its present attitude.

Harford said that in the prevailing circumstances he could not renew his persistent calls for workers to increase productivity. On this occasion, comrades, I must admit to you that given the present stance of the employer in its dealings with us as workers and as a union, I cannot make that call, he said. The day the employer shows us as workers and as a union the respect we deserve, I can assure you that I will come out as loudly as I can and say to you produce, and produce hard, he added.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGOSTATE ENTERPRISES TO UNDERGO REORGANIZATION

FL181430 Bridgetown CANA in English 2245 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 17, CANA — Trinidad and Tobago's more than 50 directly owned state companies can expect a change in ministerial control and have been asked to submit action plans by [as received] Industry Minister Senator Ken Gordon, the Industry Ministry said today. A ministry statement said that Gordon called for the action plans in the next three months when he held a briefing session with already selected enterprises chairmen yesterday.

Gordon said the plans were to outline the enterprises programme for restructuring, divestment, expansion and debt restructuring to form the basis of further discussion of the future of the government-run companies.

The three-month old government had earmarked the 34 wholly owned and 17 majority owned state companies as a way of cutting back spending, changing government financing for the state sector from guaranteed recurrent spending back-up to requests for capital investment. Prime Minister Robinson said earlier this year that the state sector had accounted in the past for almost half of government's recurrent expenditure.

Gordon told board chairmen recently appointed that cabinet planned to place each enterprise under separate ministries, rather than falling under the former state enterprises ministry — now a department in the Industry Ministry.

With names to some 20 boards so far announced, cabinet has been holding additional meeting to decide on the further appointments.

BOUTERSE CITED ON DEMONSTRATIONS, UNREST

PM251437 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 23 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Ann-Jean van Grinsven dispatch: "Paramaribo and its Environs Ruled by Fear"]

[Excerpts] Paramaribo — The inhabitants of the village of Tamanredjo subsided into a state of shock this weekend. The murder last Friday [20 March] of three policemen by the Jungle Commando hit them hard. In Meerzorg — 3 km from Paramaribo — where the police station was burnt to the ground, initial panic had given way to uncertainty. Uncertainty about security. [passage omitted]

In a speech this weekend, Commander Bouterse also mentioned rumors to the effect that the National Army was responsible for last Friday's actions. "No possible way of bringing the military into disrepute is ignored. No one is shouting anything now about violations of human rights. This was also the case when Sergeant Leeftang was killed in such a terrible way by the terrorists." The commander was addressing a meeting of provincial administrators.

"It is painful that Commewijne Province has been alarmed in such a shocking way by the attacks last Friday. Everyone is now concerned about the present situation, but the national leadership has been so for some time. It is no longer the 'Far From My Bed Show'." [not further identified]. According to Bouterse, the next 10 days are crucial. "People will be doing everything they can to see to it that we are unable to keep our promise — to present the draft constitution on 31 March. But we are continuing to do everything we can to keep our promise and are not allowing ourselves to be diverted."

The 31st of March is the official date for the end of the National Assembly and the government. The government will formally resign and a new 15-minister government will be installed until after the election. Next week the Supreme Council will discuss the composition of this interim cabinet. The life of the present assembly will be extended. The political parties have been formally requested to take part in the assembly, but they have rejected this request. They do not want to participate in a so-called representative college that has not been directly elected by the people.

The Supreme Council will continue with its present composition, but may possibly be expanded to include other important organizations. Bouterse has made special mention in this regard to the C47 trade union federation whose chairman is Fred Derby. After 31 March a referendum on the new constitution will be held within 6 months. The new government will be responsible for structures which guarantee the fair registration of voters. Thereafter elections will follow as soon as possible.

Bouterse has promised that foreign observers will be allowed to observe the elections. According to the commander, the greatest shortcoming in Suriname at present is the lack of unity among the people. "People are not thinking positively, but are distrustful. School children and students have been sent out into the streets to demonstrate, by the organizations that are behind them." Bouterse ended his speech by saying, "No matter how high the flood, one day the ebb comes."

Meanwhile schools in Paramaribo and its environs and those in Wanica have remained closed and school students in the Nickerie district have declared their solidarity with their counterparts in the capital. The talks that were to take place between the government and the students seem now to be out of the question. The joint declaration by 11 schools in which they set out their grievances closed the door on these talks.

In the declaration the students said that they have lost all confidence in the present regime. Many people now expect that the current school year must be seen as lost.

A number of parents and teachers have declared their solidarity with the students. Some churches are providing support by keeping their doors open for worried parents, who have begun spontaneous street demonstrations on several occasions. Demonstrators have numbered a few hundred and most of them have been women. But as things look now, their protest has not had the snowball effect that was originally expected. This weekend Bouterse warned churches, press, students and others: "Groups must understand that if the pitcher goes so often to the well, it will come home broken in the end."

MILITIA MEMBER, SOLDIER SHOT IN PARAMARIBO

FL241801 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Last night, a member of the People's Militia and a soldier of the National Army were shot at and wounded by unknown gunmen in separate incidents in Paramaribo, the Surinamese capital.

People's Militia member, (Van Hye) was shot at and wounded in the shoulder while being on guard duty at the water tower of the water supply company. The soldier was shot in the back at another part of the city. Both men have been hospitalized.

JUNGLE COMMANDO HITS TARGETS NEAR CAPITAL

PM241243 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 21 Mar 87 p 1

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "Brunswijk Group Strikes Three Times in Paramaribo Environs"]

[Text] The Hague/Paramaribo -- In Suriname, Ronnie Brunswijk's Jungle Commando has struck in three localities in the immediate vicinity of Paramaribo. At Tamanredjo, 20 km from the capital, three policemen were shot. In Meerzorg, on the opposite side of the Suriname River from Paramaribo, a Brunswijk patrol set a police post on fire. Halfway between Meerzorg and Tamanredjo the same happened to an office belonging to the Commewijne Agricultural Development Project.

On Thursday night [19 March] in Tamanredjo, which lies on the road between Paramaribo and Moengo, the locality's three-man police team were dragged from their beds to release a number of people under arrest in the local police station. It is reported that at first two of the three policemen were only wounded but were later executed, like their colleague by the little group of Brunswijk rebels.

The night attacks happened along the road from Paramaribo to the mining town of Moengo. This action by Brunswijk follows the Jungle Commando's announcement that in the initial phase of the so-called democratization process the Bouterse regime will be subjected to additional pressure. Brunswijk sees no good in a new constitution and the promised elections.

HILVERSUM RADIO ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

FL201635 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Here in the Netherlands, a spokesman for the Council for the Liberation of Suriname has denied its battling Jungle Commandos of rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk have staged an attack on the Army fort of (Doudel), south of the Surinamese capital, Paramaribo.

The Surinamese Government news agency SNA had reported earlier that several people had been wounded or killed at (Doudel), and that the local inhabitants were fleeing the area in masses. The (Apon-Kaba) Dam, which is of vital importance for the supply of electricity in Suriname, is located in the vicinity. The Liberation Council in the Netherlands claims that the Surinamese Army itself chased the inhabitants away.

On Thursday, meanwhile, between 3,000 and 4,000 people held a peaceful demonstration on Independence Square in Paramaribo. They wanted to hand over a petition to the authorities. Lessons in Paramaribo have been disrupted for some time now by pupils protesting against the authority of Lieutenant Colonel Desi Bouterse. The pupils had received permission for the demonstrations on Thursday.

POLICE STATIONS BURNED; OFFICERS EXECUTED

FL201815 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Last night, three police officers were executed while two police stations in the Commewijne District were burned. Also, the office of the Intercultural Development Foundation, FLOD, was destroyed by fire.

[Words indistinct] A group of armed men took the officers from their homes and carried them to the police station where they were executed. Their bodies and the police station were then set ablaze. Earlier that evening, the police station at Meerzorg was attacked and also put on fire. It is not yet known if there were any casualties during this attack. The authorities are still investigating the matter but they suspected that the Brunswijk Gang is responsible for these attacks.

INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION ATTENDS MEETING IN BARBADOS

FL241859 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Suriname is being represented by a two-man delegation at the regional meeting of the Center for Industrial Development, an organ of the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific] - EEC, now taking place in Barbados. Suriname has been invited by the center.

Today, former Finance Minister Soebhas Mungra will address the meeting. The other member of the delegation is representing Suriname's Chamber of Commerce.

The topic for discussion at the meeting is the form and content of industrial cooperation with the European Community.